



**For Immediate Release
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Sanctuary City Bill Doesn't Get Vote in State Senate

Rep. Spiros' initiative, Assembly Bill 450, prohibits a city or county from forbidding law enforcement officers to ask about someone's immigration status if they've committed a dangerous crime. AB 450 passed the State Assembly but was not included on the schedule of bills to be heard by the Senate today.

"This bill is an important public safety issue and deserved a Senate vote" said Rep. John Spiros. "I would like to thank Senator Nass, co-author of the bill, for his leadership and efforts to get it to the floor today. We are disappointed that AB 450 wasn't given a fair chance."

Opposition to the bill was based largely off confusion and untruths about what the bill actually does. Voces de la Frontera Action, a lobbying organization for immigrants, repeatedly spread misinformation and fear to the Latino community. For example, many who came to the Capitol to protest stated that this bill unfairly targets undocumented immigrants living in Wisconsin. In reality, the bill simply enforces current federal law. It does not require or encourage any law enforcement officer to ask questions regarding immigration status.

"One of the main concerns brought to my attention was that undocumented workers feared they would be deported if they were pulled over while driving without a license. I responded by amending the bill so that it would not include these types of offenses," Spiros stated. "As a former law enforcement officer myself, my intention with this bill is only to make Wisconsin communities safer by focusing on dangerous crimes."

Just this month an illegal alien was arrested and charged with five murders across two states. In 2004, Pablo Antonio Serrano-Vitorino was deported back to Mexico, but illegally reentered the country. In 2014, he was convicted of a DUI in Kansas, however it doesn't appear ICE was notified and he was not deported. He was arrested again in 2015 for domestic assault, ICE was notified, but agents weren't able to interview him because he was released from police custody after being processed.

"This is exactly the type of tragedy that we need to prevent," Rep. Spiros stated. "This man should have been deported earlier for his prior arrests. If that had happened, these five individuals would still be alive today."

Troubling new statistics show the effects of President Obama's so-called "catch and release" policy for illegal aliens. Reports show 124 illegal aliens who were caught and released over the

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last five years were charged with committing murder after they were set free. That's according to data obtained by the Center for Immigration Studies.

“If the federal government cannot protect our residents, then it is up to the states to pass bills like AB 450,” Spiros stated. “Other states have taken a proactive approach to protect their citizens. It is awfully disappointing that this bill will fail this session because the Senate chose to deflect the issue rather than take it up for debate. I remain committed to seeing this legislation pass and get signed into law in Wisconsin.”

The bill has been strongly supported by Wisconsin’s law enforcement community, including the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs’ Association, and Badger State Sheriffs’ Association.

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